Sl. No.	Circle	Post Offices in Rural Areas	Population served by a Rural PO (based on 2001 Census)
19.	Tamil Nadu (including Pondicherry)	10205	3434
20.	Uttar Pradesh	15707	8375
21.	Uttaranchal	2491	2533
22.	West Bengal	7633	7563
	Sikkim	195	2462
	A. & N. Islands	89	2697
	TOTAL;	139081	5337

Procurement of equipments and network by BSNL

973. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited had initiated a process of limited tender a year ago for procurement of equipments and network for 2.5 million lines, because of the urgency of the requirement;

(b) whether one of the bidders Motorola had quoted rates 50% higher that the comparable market rates;

(c) whether despite passage of a year in the process, the BSNL has completed the process of procurement and installation; and

(d) if not, whether an open tender would have ensured lower bids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The notice for Inviting limited tender was issued on 29th July, 2003.

(b) The quote received from M/s Motorola was higher compared to procurement price of previous tender. However after negotiations the price per line have been brought down to a lower level i.e. by about 23% less when compared to the last procurement price.

(c) The tender has been finalized within a period of four months of inviting the bids and the Purchase Orders are under issue by respective telecom circles.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Unified license policy

974. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new 'unified license' policy introduced by Government is linked to spectrum availability and a transparent spectrum allocation policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Anaddendum to New Telecom Policy-1999 has been issued to include the following categories of licences for telecommunication services:

(i) Unified Licence for Telecommunication Services permitting Licensee to provide all telecommunication/telegraph services covering various geographical areas using any technology;

(ii) Licence for Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services permitting Licensee to provide Basic and/or Cellular Services using any technology in a defined service area.

Guidelines for Unified Access Services License (UASL) permitting licensee to provide Basic and/or Cellular Services have since been issued. For migration of the existing operators to UASL, no additional spectrum will be allotted and the service provider will continue to provide wireless services in the already allocated/contracted spectrum. Guidelines for Unified Licence to provide all telecom services will be issued in due course of time after receipt of recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this behalf and consideration thereof by the Government.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.